

## Message Text

SECRET

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46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 101330Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6074

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 6588

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, CB

SUBJECT: STUDENT/TEACHER UNREST AS A THREAT TO THE LONG BORET  
GOVERNMENT

1. AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT LON NOL, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL CHIEF BRIG. GEN EK PROEUNG CALLED AT THE EMBASSY TODAY, MAY 10, TO SEEK OUR VIEWS ON A REPORT THAT "REPUBLICAN OR OTHER OPPOSITION ELEMENTS" ARE STIMULATING STUDENT/TEACHER UNREST IN ORDER TO TOPPLE THE LONG BORET GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, A MAY 17 STUDENT/TEACHER DEMONSTRATION IS BEING PLANNED AS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD CREATING A SITUATION SIMILAR TO THAT IN BANGKOK WHICH LED TO THE FALL OF THE THANOM GOVERNMENT. THE MARSHAL DESCRIBED THE SOURCE OF THIS REPORT ONLY AS A FOREIGN DIPLOMAT IN PHNOM PENH, EK PROEUNG SAID.

2. WE STATED THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US SUGGESTED THAT LEFTIST TEACHER AND STUDENT ELEMENTS WERE BEHIND CURRENT AGITATION IN THE SCHOOLS. WE EXPRESSED STRONG DOUBTS THAT ANY FOREIGN EMBASSY HERE HAD CONTACTS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THEM CORRECT INFORMATION OF THIS SORT WHICH WAS NOT ALSO AVAILABLE TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY OR TO GENERAL EK PROEUNG'S OWN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES. WE SUGGESTED THAT THE MARSHAL'S REPORT MAY HAVE ORIGINATED WITH SOMEONE WISHING TO SOW DISCORD BETWEEN THE REPUBLICANS AND SOCIO-REPUBLICANS. IN THIS RESPECT, WE NOTED THAT

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SOCIO/REPUBLICANS IN PARLIAMENT HAVE BEEN PURSUING A

FEUD WITH REPUBLICAN MINISTERS, WHICH IN ITSELF HAS  
LITTLE MEANING BUT WHICH COULD DESTROY THE COALITION.

3. I TOOK THIS OCCASION TO EMPHASIZE TO EK PROEUNG  
THE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES OF GKR POLITICANS ATTEMPTING  
TO GAIN PETTY VICTORIES OVER EACH OTHER WHEN THE ENEMY  
IS REGISTERING SUCCESSES ON THE MILITARY FRONT. SUCH  
JOSTLING, I SAID, WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE  
AMERICAN PUBLIC OR CONGRESS. DISSOLUTION OF THE LONG  
BORET CABINET AND PLAYING MUSICAL MUSICAL CHAIRS WITH CABINET  
POSITIONS IN PARTICULAR WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WEAKEN OUR  
HAND WITH CONGRESS AND JEOPARDIZE OBTAINING THE FUNDS  
NEEDED TO CONTINUE CAMBODIA'S STRUGGLE, I STRESSED.  
IT WOULD ALSO UNDERMINE GKR'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE AND  
WEAKEN GKR'S CHANCES OF RETAINING ITS UN SEAT. EK  
PROEUNG PROMISED TO REPORT OUR VIEWS TO THE MARSHAL  
AND ASSURED US THAT THE PRESIDENT IS NOT CONTEMPLATING  
CHANGES IN THE LONG BORET GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: EK PROEUNG'S REPORT CONCERNS US IN THAT  
IT SUGGESTS AN EFFORT TO USE TEACHER/STUDENT UNREST AS  
A PRISE TO BREAK APART THE REPUBLICAN/SOCIO-REPUBLICAN  
COALITION. AS WE SUGGESTED TO EK PROEUNG, OUR  
SUSPICIONS IN THIS REGARD CENTER ON SOCIO-REPUBLICAN  
DEPUTIES, WHO COULD HOPE TO PROFIT MOST FROM A CABINET  
RESHUFFLE. WE NOTE IN PARTICULAR THAT SOME TEACHER  
LEADERS HAVE RECENTLY SUGGESTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VICE  
PRESIDENT PAN SOTHI AS A REPLACEMENT FOR LONG BORET.  
WE WILL ATTEMPT OVER THE WEEKEND TO SEE SOTHI AND  
OTHERS POSSIBLY INVOLVED IN THIS MANEUVERING TO MAKE  
OUR CONCERN CLEAR. I HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH LONG BORET  
THIS EVENING WHO SOUNDED CONCERNED OVER THE TELEPHONE  
ABOUT THE EFFECT OF STUDENT/TEACHER DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULED  
FOR END NEXT WEEK.  
DEAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL STABILITY, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, TEACHERS, STUDENT GROUPS, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974PHNOM06588  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740114-0993  
**From:** PHNOM PENH  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740557/aaaabywz.tel  
**Line Count:** 96  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STUDENT/TEACHER UNREST AS A THREAT TO THE LONG BORET GOVERNMENT  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, CB, (LONG BORET)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005